

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CA-01 IO-13 /093 W
-----014112 081730Z /46

R 071237Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1993
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7440

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, AG, MO, MR, SP
SUBJECT: CONTACT WITH FRENTE POLISARIO

1. AT A BUFFET DINNER GIVEN OCTOBER 6 BY ALGERIAN AMBAS-
SADOR FOR HETEROGENEOUS GROUP TOTALING ABOUT 40, DCM WAS
INTRODUCED TO PERSON WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS THE FRENTE
POLISARIO REPRESENTATIVE FOR SPAIN AND IBEROAMERICA AND
WHO IS PRESUMABLY HAMDI BUEIHA.

2. IN FIVE-TO-TEN-MINUTE CONVERSATION THAT INEVITABLY
ENSUED BEFORE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR RESCUED DCM BUEIHA GAVE
EXPOSITION OF POLISARIO, CURRENT SITUATION INCLUDING HOW,
IN HIS TERMS, IT HAD ADVANCED FROM SMALL, POOR GROUP TO
LARGER, EFFICIENT FORCE THAT WAS ABLE TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY
AGAINST CONVENTIONAL MOROCCAN MILITARY, PREVENT BU-CRAA
PHOSPHATE RESOURCES FROM BEING EXPLOITED AND BRING ITS CASE
TELLINGLY BEFORE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION. HE NOTED THAT FRENTE
POLISARIO REPRESENTATIVE HAD BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES AND
CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY IN US CONGRESS
FOR THE POLISARIO CAUSE. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE POLI-
SARIO'S RESOURCES WERE LIMITED HE BELIEVED IT SHOULD EXPAND
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ITS REPRESENTATIONAL EFFORTS AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING A
GREATER EFFORT IN THE UNITED STATES. HE MENTIONED THE
QUESTION OF VISAS BUT DID NOT PRESS THE MATTER, AND THE DCM
WAS NONCOMMITTAL.

3. THE ALGERIAN COUNSELOR ASKED THE UNITED STATES POSITION
IN THE SAHARA MATTER. THE DCM RESPONDED THAT IT WAS CLEAR-

LY NEUTRAL. THE UNITED STATES WISHED TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA AND MOROCCO AND DID NOT WISH TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE.

4. BUEIHA IS A SLENDER YOUNG MAN PERHAPS IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES. HE IS PERSONABLE, ARTICULATE AND EFFECTIVE IN STATING HIS CASE. THE CONVERSATION WAS IN SPANISH. HE OBVIOUSLY KNEW A NUMBER OF THE PEOPLE AT THE DINNER QUITE WELL, INCLUDING LUIS YANEZ, INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE PSOE. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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